

12.0 GLOSSARY

AADT – Annual Average Daily Traffic. The average daily volume of traffic on a yearly basis.

AASHTO – American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

ADT – Average Daily Traffic. The total volume of traffic during a given time period (in whole days greater than one day and less than one year) divided by the number of days in that time period.

Air Quality Conformity Analysis – The process of measuring an area’s air quality to determine if it meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Alternative – The largest division of options evaluated by the proposed project. Alternatives for the proposed project are the No-Build, the Enhanced No-Build, and the Build.

Ambient Air – The outside air we breathe.

Arterial – A road that carries the traffic not carried by freeways to important traffic generators, such as airports or regional shipping centers.

Assignment – The process by which a travel demand forecasting model takes origin trips from a traffic analysis zone and moves them across the model network (by the shortest route) to destinations. The number of trips sent across a specific network link is the estimate of traffic on the link.

Attainment Area – A particular geographic area that is measured for compliance with a specific air pollutant. An area may be in attainment for one air pollutant and in nonattainment for another air pollutant.

Baseline – The current standard that improvements or alternatives are based upon. For example, the baseline could be the current number of travel lanes in a roadway system used in air quality analyses.

Braided Ramps – Two ramps, an off-ramp and an on-ramp, that cross over each other without intersecting. Usually, as the off-ramp traffic is exiting, the on-ramp traffic is crossing over the exiting traffic.

BRT – Bus Rapid Transit.

CAAA – Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, integrating the transportation planning and air quality compliance processes.

CAC – Citizens Advisory Committee. Consists of key business and community stakeholders.

CBD – Central Business District.

CO – Carbon monoxide, a primary air pollutant of concern in most transportation projects.

Collector – A road that funnels traffic from residential or rural areas to both principal and minor arterials.

Conventional Service Drives – Service drives that run along each side of the freeway, or parallel to the freeway, along the entire corridor.

Continuous Service Drives – Service drives that are continuous from one end of the project area to the other, even as they travel through interchanges.

Cumulative Impacts – Result from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

dBA – decibels, a measure of sound.

DDOT – Detroit Department of Transportation.

DEIS – Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Direct Impacts – Caused by an action and occur at the same time and place of the action.

EDR – Environmental Data Resources.

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement.

ERIIS – Environmental Risk Information and Imaging Services.

FEIS – Final Environmental Impact Statement.

FHWA – Federal Highway Administration, the lead agency for this project.

Freeway – A multi-lane divided arterial highway that allows access only at designated locations.

Highway – An arterial roadway that provides direct access to buildings and intersections. Highway characteristics include intersections at grade and design features that control speed and the safe movement of traffic.

HOV Lanes – High-occupancy vehicle lanes, dedicated to vehicles with two or more occupants.

ICC – Interagency Coordination Committee. Comprised of representatives from MDOT, the City of Detroit, SEMCOG, FHWA, Wayne County, DDOT, SMART, and Macomb County.

Indirect Impacts – Result from an action and occur later in time or are farther removed from the project location.

Intermodal Facility – Transfer facility where cargo or passengers can move between transportation modes such as motor, air, and water.

Interstate System – A system of nearly 48,000 miles of interstates that are limited-access arterial highways linking major population, industrial, and defense centers.

ISTEA – Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act.

ITS – Intelligent Transportation Systems.

LOS – Level of service. A qualitative measure of traffic conditions and traffic flow.

LRP – Long Range (Transportation) Plan. A 20-year plan outlining proposed transportation projects in a geographic area. Projects are listed for a time period generally controlled by need and available resources.

MDEQ – Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

MDNR – Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its goals are to conserve and develop the state's natural resources and to protect and enhance the state's environmental quality.

MDOT – Michigan Department of Transportation. Its primary functions include the construction, improvement, and maintenance of the state highway system and the administration of all other state transportation programs.

MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization. The regional organization of representatives of local units of government and transportation agencies responsible, along with the state, for transportation planning in a defined urban area. The organization prepares long-range transportation plans and a transportation improvement program for the defined area.

Mitigation – Compensation for impacts occurring as a result of an activity.

MIS – Major Investment Study.

MITSC – Michigan Intelligent Transportation System Committee

MNFI – Michigan Natural Features Inventory.

MVM – Million vehicle miles.

NAAQS – National Ambient Air Quality Standards, established to limit the maximum concentration of each of the criteria pollutants permitted in the atmosphere.

NAFTA – North American Free Trade Agreement.

National Highway System – The nationwide system of approximately 155,000 miles of major roads, including the entire Interstate System. The purpose of the National Highway System is to focus resources on roads that are most important to interstate travel and national defense, roads that connect other modes of transportation, and roads essential to international commerce.

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act.

Network – A representation of important study area roads in a travel demand-forecasting model. A portion of a road between major intersections or intersection is a model link.

NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act of 1996.

Nonattainment Area – A particular geographic area that is measured for compliance with a specific air pollutant. An area may be in attainment for one air pollutant and in nonattainment for another air pollutant.

NO_x – Oxides of nitrogen, one of the criteria pollutants monitored by the Clean Air Act. Sources of NO_x include gasoline vapors and chemical solvents.

NRCS – United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Formerly the Soil Conservation Service.

NRHP – National Register of Historic Places.

Peak Hour (AM) – The 1-hour period in the morning representing the highest hourly volume of traffic flow on the adjacent public roadway system.

Peak Hour (PM) – The 1-hour period in the afternoon or evening representing the highest hourly volume of traffic flow on the adjacent public roadway system.

PIMs – Public information meetings. Public meetings held to present proposed project information to interested citizens and receive comments in return.

PM₁₀ – Any material that exists as solid or liquid in the atmosphere and is less than 10 microns in diameter. PM₁₀ may be in the form of fly ash, soot, or dust and is derived from diesel trucks and power plants.

RCRA – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Record of Decision (ROD) – A decision document by the Federal Highway Administration that a highway transportation project is needed and meets legal guidelines for minimization/mitigation of environmental impacts and the public has had an opportunity to review and comment on the proposal. It does not signify approval for subsequent steps in the project development process.

Right-of-Way (ROW) – Land or property acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes.

Secondary Impacts – Indirect effects caused by an action that occur later in time or are farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable.

SEMCOG – Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, a regional planning partnership and the local MPO for this project.

Section 4(f) – A section of the Transportation Act of 1966 that requires special consideration of historic cultural resources and public parklands in the development of transportation projects.

Section 404 – A section of the Clean Water Act that requires special consideration of wetlands and other water resources in the development of transportation projects.

Service Drive – Roadway that parallels and is separated from the mainline of a freeway. Provides a connection between the freeway and local streets.

SHPO – State Historic Preservation Officer.

SIP – State Implementation Plan. Plan developed by the state for a geographically defined region for the purpose of improving ambient air quality and assuring compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

SMART – Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation. SMART is a public agency that provides fixed route and demand responsive services for communities within Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties.

STAMINA2/OPTIMA – Computer model for predicting noise impacts and developing mitigation strategies.

TDM – Transportation Demand Management. TDM develops alternatives to reduce the existing and future road capacity needs by reducing traffic demand. Alternatives include ridesharing, HOV lanes, and non-motorized facilities.

TEA-21 – Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, the federal law approved on June 9, 1998, that authorizes federal-aid highway programs.

Temporary Impacts – Refer to impacts occurring during construction.

TIP – Transportation Improvement Program. A prioritized list of federally funded and regionally significant non-federally funded major road and transit service improvements proposed by various communities, transit agencies, and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Traffic Analysis Zone – A small part of a study area where trip-ends (home, work, store, and school) are estimated from the resident population and employment in the area. A trip-end may be an origin or a destination going one way (going from home to work is a trip; going from work to home is a second trip).

Travel Demand Forecasting Model – A computer model used to estimate traffic volumes on roadways.

TSM – Transportation Systems Management.

Unconventional Service Drives - Service drives along a freeway that do not follow directly along the side of the freeway. An unconventional service drive may be located on only one side of the freeway and would then be a two-way street.

USCOE – United States Army, Corps of Engineers.

USEPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency.

USFWS – United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

VHT – Vehicle hours traveled.

VMT – Vehicle miles traveled, a unit of measure that is used to calculate the total miles traveled by vehicles in a specified area for a specific period of time. VMT is used to evaluate the use a roadway receives at different times of day.

VOC – Volatile organic compounds. VOCs are hydrocarbons released from burning fuel, such as gasoline, or vapors from paints or solvents.